

cillors definitely united as a Progressive Party, this Party found itself equipped—perhaps it never understood quite how—with a programme that was as far removed from the political conceptions of the Liberal Party leaders of the time as it was from the Individualism of the Manchester School "

In this second, 1892, L C C Election, he was not merely the organiser of victory he was himself a candidate. He offered himself as a Progressive candidate to Deptford—then a

" mixed district of villa residents and manual wage-earners and strongly held for Parliament by a Conservative—a district in which I knew only one person. It was then I studied the technique of electioneering, with at least this much success that I won the seat by a large majority and kept it at five subsequent elections⁵ and also brought in a timorous and elderly Progressive colleague, whom my proceedings and projects had, I fear, terrified, and who was presently succeeded by an able young Fabian, the late R C Phillimore "

Actually, in 1892, he was returned at the head of the poll with 4,088 votes his colleague receiving 2,503. He was, in fact, as his friend Stephen Sanders puts it "the consummate electioneerer". Far from concealing his Socialist opinions, he here, as always, most frankly stated them, as if, in fact, such were the only rational opinions* frankly, but never aggressively. Mr Sanders, reminiscing about Deptford, says that

"his tact, his powers of persuasion, his toleration of other people's views, his evident disinterestedness, and the absence from his speeches of any personal attacks upon his opponents, together with his complete mastery of the issues of the contest and the ease with which he can deal with any question or questioner,

secured for him support from most unexpected quarters",

He tells a story which makes this clear, in most enter-
taining fashion

"No one is less like a 'sportsman' either in habit or in appearance than Sidney Webb, who states that his one recreation is walking. Yet, at one London County Council election, when some absurd issue was raised about a threatened restriction of